to banks for assisting employees in acquiring shares of their employer companies out of the quota reserved for subscription by employees, no separate instructions have been issued by them for granting advances to investors in general proposing to subscribe to right shares.

Export price of cotton

3514. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minimum export price in respect of export of cotton still continues or the same has since been withdrawn;

(b) whether any relaxation has been announced in the export procedure; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) The procedure for *interse* allocation of the export quota released to the private trade has been revised so that interse allocations are made on the basis of the highest unit value realisation quoted by the applicants in their applications submitted in sealed tenders. In view of the above procedure, the fixation of minimum export prices in respect of quotas allotted to the private trade has been dispensed with. Exports by public sector agencies, however, will continue to be subject to minimum export prices.

Advances made under the Differential Rates of Interest Scheme

3515. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total advances made under the Differential Rates of Interest Scheme so far; and

(b) how much of this is at four percent interest rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the total outstanding advances of public sector banks as at the end of December, 1988 under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme were Rs. 646.58 crores.

(b) The entire amount advanced under the scheme carries a rate of interest of 4 per cent annum.

Development of Wasteland

3516. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total wasteland in the country at present;

(b) what is the area of wasteland under the National Wastelands Development Board;

(c) whether the private sector is allowed to develop wasteland; and

(d) if so, the broad policy and the incentives available to the private sector for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A country-wide survey of all wastelands has not been carried out. According to an estimate, the total area of wastelands in the country is about 130 million hectares.

(b) The National Wastelands Development Board does not have any wastelands of its own.

(c) and (d) The specific steps taken to encourage the private sector in wastelands development through afforestation and tree planting are given below:

(i) To promote farm/agro-forestry on privately owned wastelands, free or subsidised supply of seedlings is being done and decentralised people's nurseries are being established. Loans at uniform rate of 10 per cent per annum are given by the banks, and 100 per cent refinance facility is provided to the banks by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

(ii) Voluntary agencies are being encouraged to take up tree planting and related activities on wastelands and financial assistance is also provided for this purpose.

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to encourage private sector wood-based industry to develop linkages with farmers having wastelands for raising the raw-material requirements of the industry. For industrial plantations, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development extends refinance support upto 70 per cent of the bank loan so that credit support is available from the commercial banks to the corporate sector at a preferential rate of interest of 12.5 per cent.

रेलवे के अनधिकृत माल भेजने और छुड़ाने वाले एजेंटों को समाप्त करना

3517. **श्री विश्वास राव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ संसद सदस्यों ने सरकार को कुछ ठोस सुझाव दिये हैं जिनसे एक सुझाव यह भी शामिल है कि देश में कार्यरत, रेलवे में माल भेजने और छुड़ाने वाले अनधिकृत एजेंटों को समाप्त किया जाये क्योंकि इसके परिणामस्वरूप राजकोष को आयकर के रूप में करोड़ों रुपये की हानि हो रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन सुझावों का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राजस्व विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित पांजा) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) यह सुझाव मुख्य-मुख्य रेलवे स्टेशनों पर शीघ्र नष्ट होने वाली वस्तुओं सहित पार्सल तथा असबाब की बुकिंग के लिये निविदायें आमंत्रित करके अप्रेषण अभिकर्ताओं की नियुक्ति किये जाने के बारे में है ।

(ग) रेलवे प्रशासन स्टेशनों पर पार्सलों तथा असबाब की बुकिंग करने के लिये किसी भी व्यक्ति को परेषकों की ओर से कोई एकमात्र अधिकार नहीं दे सकता है ।

Evasion of Income-tax by LPG dealers in Delhi/New Delhi

3518. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the LPG dealers in Delhi, especially M/s. Kamal Gas Service, Singhalpura, Associated Gas Agency, Sagar Gas Enterprises, Kirti Gas Service, Atul Gas Service, Anantji Gas Service have been evading the payment of a large sum towards income-tax with the collusion of Income Tax Officials;

(b) if so, what are the details of the raids conducted in the recent past against the LPG dealers in Delhi/New Delhi and how much unaccounted money/jewellery, has been recovered from them; and

(c) if no raid has been conducted, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) It has been reported by the concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax that no case of tax evasion by LPG dealers in Delhi specially M/s. Kamal Gas Service, Singhalpura, Associated Gas Agency, Sagar Gas Enterprises, Kirti Gas Service, Atul Gas Service and Anantji Gas Service have come to notice so far.

(b) A search was conducted in December, 1988 in the case of Shri Satish Bhatnagar, Prop. Ruchika Agencies, LPG dealer of Laxmi Bai Nagar, New Delhi. Shri Bhatnagar surrendered unaccounted in-